

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 312878
ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 312878

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO, PFOR

SUBJECT: TEXT OF DECEMBER 29 PRESS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S DECEMBER 29 NOON
PRESS CONFERENCE:

Q. JOHN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY ON THE CONCERN
OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THEIR LOAN?

A. BERNIE, THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THAT IS
THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING IN LISBON THIS WEEK; BUT
I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU AT THE PRESENT
TIME. WE UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES THAT
THE PORTUGUESE ARE FACING AND WE ARE DESIROUS OF RESPONDING
TO IT, TO THEIR NEED, BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON
IT FOR YOU.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHO WILL BE DOING THE DISCUSSING?
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A. I DO NOT KNOW, BUT I CANNOT SAY, BERNIE; NO.

Q. AND WE ARE WHAT -- RESPONDING TO THEIR NEEDS, DID YOU
SAY?

A. WE ARE DESIROUS --

Q. OH, DESIROUS; RIGHT.

A. -- OF RESPONDING TO THE NEED.
ROBINSON

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